

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the features of the present invention whereby the control unit: (i) when the camera device is started up in a state in which a recording mode for photographing is set, controls the driving unit to start an initialization of the optical system to drive the optical system to a predetermined state, before an interrupt processing of an operating system, and (ii) when the camera device is started up in a state in which a playback mode for display is set, controls the driving unit to suspend the initialization of the optical system. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 11, line 20 to page 13, line 21. See also, for example, page 13, line 22 to page 15, line 19.

Independent claims 7 and 9, moreover, have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1.

In addition, claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2 to correct the informality pointed out by the Examiner.

Still further, the claims have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9, when a recording mode is set when the camera device is started up by power-on, an initializing operation (see steps SA9 to SA14 in Fig. 4) in which the lens group 11 is zoomed open is immediately started. Operations required for the other initializations may be carried out during that time. Accordingly, with the structure of the claimed present invention, the starting time required for photographing in a camera device having a movable lens, for example, can be markedly reduced, and it is possible to speed up the starting time. Thus, instead of initializing the optical system after all the programs are loaded, a minimum number of programs required to initialize the optical system may be first loaded and the initialization of the optical system is prioritized. Therefore, the time from the time that power is turned on until the lens is protruded is shortened. These minimum number of programs are performed by an interrupt processing, not by a normal task, so that a task preparation time is not needed. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 17, lines 4-22.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9, as well as claims 2-6, 8 and 10 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over JP 2001-268413, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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